

Table 9. Nonmarital childbearing according to detailed race and Hispanic origin of mother, and maternal age and birth rates for unmarried women by race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, selected years 1970–99

[Data are based on the National Vital Statistics System]

<i>Race, Hispanic origin of mother, and maternal age</i>	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Percent of live births to unmarried mothers												
All races	10.7	14.3	18.4	22.0	28.0	31.0	32.6	32.2	32.4	32.4	32.8	33.0
White.	5.5	7.1	11.2	14.7	20.4	23.6	25.4	25.3	25.7	25.8	26.3	26.8
Black.	37.5	49.5	56.1	61.2	66.5	68.7	70.4	69.9	69.8	69.2	69.1	68.9
American Indian or Alaska Native.	22.4	32.7	39.2	46.8	53.6	55.8	57.0	57.2	58.0	58.7	59.3	58.9
Asian or Pacific Islander	---	---	7.3	9.5	13.2	15.7	16.2	16.3	16.7	15.6	15.6	15.4
Chinese	3.0	1.6	2.7	3.0	5.0	6.7	7.2	7.9	9.2	6.5	6.4	6.9
Japanese	4.6	4.6	5.2	7.9	9.6	10.0	11.2	10.8	11.4	10.1	9.7	9.9
Filipino	9.1	6.9	8.6	11.4	15.9	17.7	18.5	19.5	19.4	19.5	19.7	21.1
Hawaiian and part Hawaiian	---	---	32.9	37.3	45.0	47.8	48.6	49.0	49.9	49.1	51.1	50.4
Other Asian or Pacific Islander	---	---	5.4	8.5	12.6	16.1	16.4	16.2	16.5	15.6	15.2	14.5
Hispanic origin ^{1,2}	---	---	23.6	29.5	36.7	40.0	43.1	40.8	40.7	40.9	41.6	42.2
Mexican	---	---	20.3	25.7	33.3	37.0	40.8	38.1	37.9	38.9	39.6	40.1
Puerto Rican	---	---	46.3	51.1	55.9	59.4	60.2	60.0	60.7	59.4	59.5	59.6
Cuban	---	---	10.0	16.1	18.2	21.0	22.9	23.8	24.7	24.4	24.8	26.4
Central and South American	---	---	27.1	34.9	41.2	45.2	45.9	44.1	44.1	41.8	42.0	43.7
Other and unknown Hispanic	---	---	22.4	31.1	37.2	38.7	43.5	44.0	43.5	43.6	45.3	45.8
White, non-Hispanic ¹	---	---	9.6	12.4	16.9	19.5	20.8	21.2	21.5	21.5	21.9	22.1
Black, non-Hispanic ¹	---	---	57.3	62.1	66.7	68.9	70.7	70.0	70.0	69.4	69.3	69.1
Number of live births, in thousands												
Live births to unmarried mothers	399	448	666	828	1,165	1,240	1,290	1,254	1,260	1,257	1,294	1,309
Maternal age												
Percent distribution of live births to unmarried mothers												
Under 20 years.	50.1	52.1	40.8	33.8	30.9	29.7	30.5	30.9	30.4	30.7	30.1	29.3
20–24 years	31.8	29.9	35.6	36.3	34.7	35.4	34.8	34.5	34.2	34.9	35.6	36.4
25 years and over.	18.1	18.0	23.5	29.9	34.4	34.9	34.6	34.7	35.3	34.4	34.3	34.3
Live births per 1,000 unmarried women 15–44 years of age ³												
All races and origins	26.4	24.5	29.4	32.8	43.8	45.3	46.9	45.1	44.8	44.0	44.3	44.4
White ⁴	13.9	12.4	18.1	22.5	32.9	35.9	38.3	37.5	37.6	37.0	37.5	38.1
Black ⁴	95.5	84.2	81.1	77.0	90.5	84.0	82.1	75.9	74.4	73.4	73.3	71.5
Hispanic origin ^{1,2}	---	---	---	---	89.6	95.2	101.2	95.0	93.2	91.4	90.1	93.4
White, non-Hispanic	---	---	---	---	---	---	28.5	28.2	28.3	27.0	27.4	27.9

--- Data not available.

¹Trend data for Hispanics and non-Hispanics are affected by expansion of the reporting area for an Hispanic-origin item on the birth certificate and by immigration. These two factors affect numbers of events, composition of the Hispanic population, and maternal and infant health characteristics. The number of States in the reporting area increased from 22 in 1980, to 23 and the District of Columbia (DC) in 1983–87, 30 and DC in 1988, 47 and DC in 1989, 48 and DC in 1990, 49 and DC in 1991–92, and 50 and DC in 1993 and later years (see Appendix I, National Vital Statistics System).

²Includes mothers of all races.

³Rates computed by relating births to unmarried mothers, regardless of age of mother, to unmarried women 15–44 years of age. Population data for American Indian or Alaska Native and Asian or Pacific Islander women not available for rate calculations.

⁴For 1970 and 1975, birth rates are by race of child.

NOTES: National estimates for 1970 and 1975 for unmarried mothers based on births occurring in States reporting marital status of mother (see Appendix I, National Vital Statistics System). The race groups, white, black, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Asian or Pacific Islander, include persons of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin. Conversely, persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. In 1995 procedures implemented in California to more accurately identify the marital status of Hispanic mothers account for some of the decline in measures of nonmarital childbearing for women of all races, white women, and Hispanic women between 1994 and 1995. Other reporting changes implemented in California, Nevada, New York City, and Connecticut in 1997 and 1998 have affected trends for all groups. See Appendix I, National Vital Statistics System, Birth certificate items. Data for additional years are available (see Appendix III).

SOURCES: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System; Ventura SJ, Martin JA, Curtin SC, Menacker F, Hamilton BE. Births: Final Data for 1999. National vital statistics reports; vol 49, no 1. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics, 2001. (in press); Births: Final data for each data year 1997–98. National vital statistics reports. Hyattsville, Maryland; Final natality statistics for each data year 1993–96. Monthly vital statistics report. Hyattsville, Maryland; Ventura SJ. Births to unmarried mothers: United States, 1980–92. Vital Health Stat 21(53). 1995.